(a) whether it is a fact that some of the Industrial Houses are indulging in wilful evasion of various Government taxes, thereby affecting adversely the revenue collections;

(b) if so, what is the total number of cases under Income Tax, Customs and Excise laws pending adjudication or otherwise against SPIC (Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corpn.);

(c) what is the break-up of amounts involved thereiin case-wise;

(d) what are the details of cases confirmed by adjudicating authorities, casewise; and

(e) what action Government are taking to realise the disputed amounts where Courts have granted Stay orders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : Information in regard to Customs and Income Tax is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. Part-wise information regarding Central Excise is given below :—

(a) Cases have been registered against Industrial Houses for allegedly indulging in wilful evasion of Central Excise duty.

(b) There are no cases pending adjudication/investigation against SPIC (Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation).

(c) to (e) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Arrangement with Italy to avoid double Taxation

3452. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Italy have signed revised convention for avoidance of double taxation; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the convention ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) Yes, Sir, A revised Convention for avoidance of double taxation between India & Italy was signed at the Government level on 19th February, 1993. However, the Convention comes into force only upon the exchange of instruments of ratification. In view of this, the Convention is not yet final.

(b) The revised Convention provides for reduced rates of taxation in specified area so as to encourage flow of investment and technology between the two countries. The Convention contains provision for solving the problems of the tax power in the other country through mutual agreement procedure. It also provides for exchange of information between the tax authorities of the two countries for the prevention of fraud or evasion of taxes covered by the treaty.

Inspection of UTI Funds invested in Stock Market

3453. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the huge funds of unit Trust of India were utilised/invested in Stock Market, required to be inspected under any rules;

(b) if so, whether such funds utilised/invested in Stock Market had been inspected; and

(c) if not, what action was taken against the officers/authority who were responsible to conduct the said inspection.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) The accounts of Unit Trust of India including the share market transactions are audited every year by the statutory authorities appointed with the approval of IDBI and in consultation with RBI. UTI's internal auditors also audit the accounts periodically. The funds utilised/invested in stock market have been inspected.

(c) Does not arise.